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A ſupplication

to the Kinges Maieſtie of *Spayne*,

Made by the Prince of Orange, the ſtates of *Holland* and *Zeland*, with all other his faithfull ſubiectes of the low Countreys, preſently ſuppreſſed by the tyranny of the Duke of *Alba* and *Spaniards*.

By which is declared the originall beginning of al the commotions & troubles happened in the ſayd low Countrie: to the reliefe wherof, they require his Maieſties ſpeedy redreſſe and remedie.

Faithfully tranſlated out of Duytſch into Engliſh, by *T. W.*

PSALM. LXXXII.

Defende the poore and fatherleſſe, ſee that ſuch as be in need and neceſsitie, haue right.
Deliuer the outcaſt and poore, ſaue them from the hande of the vngodly.

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1572

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A Supplicatiõ to the Kings Maiestie of Spayne, made by the Prince of Orange, the States of Hollande and Zealande, with all other his faithefull subiects of the lowe Countries presently suppressed by the tyrannie of the Duke of Alba, and Spaniardes.

MOste Soueraigne Lorde, your Maiesties most obedient and lamẽting subiectes of the low Countries, as they haue often pondered with thẽselues, the naturall affection and fatherly good inclination, which your Maiesty hath (since the time that your grace by the power of almighty God receyued the dominion and regiment of the sayd countreis) always and continually shewed: so haue they had a sure hope and vndoubted affiaunce, that your Maiesty as well vpon their daily complaynts and lamentations, as vpon the pitifull declarations and remõstrances of somẽ christian Princes and Potentates vnto your Maiestie, mercifully haue considered of our pitifull and most mi-

serable suppression, wherwith we by reason of the great and vnsupportable force, arrogancy, and wicked regiment of the Duke of Alba are suppressed, and mercifully haue regarded the most miserable ruine and destruction of these your naturall low countreys, who alwayes haue bẽn most faithful and obedient, both to your Maiesty, and also your Graces predecessours. Not doubting but that your Maiestie would grẽuously haue bẽn moued, that hẽ vnder pretence of protecting and defending the Romish religion, vnder the colour of your Maiestyes name, should presume to frustrate & breake all the priuileges, customes, and rightes, wherunto your Maiesty and your predecessours haue swornе, persecuting your faithfull subiects in body and goods, and destroying your countreys, in none other sorte, but as if he had declared himselfe to be an open enemy of your Maiesty and the subiects of the same.

Therfore haue they always earnestly attended, that your Maiesty no longer suffering the sayde force, woulde haue prouided some conuenient meanes for the safegarde of your countreys, and deliuerance of your poore and suppressed subiects, and haue a respect to the dutifull office of a kinge, whom the almightie God, the kinge of all kinges,

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hath placed and ordeyned as a protectour of the righteous, and a fatherly pastor of the people vnder your subiection, to defend and preserue them from all force and violence: and likewise to remember the manifolde and faithfull seruices, which your sayd coũtreys and subiects, haue from time to time most faithfully done to your Maiestie and your predecessours.

But they now (to their extreme griefe) considering that all their former supplications are as nothing regarded and in vaine, and that al other the remonstrances of sundry Princes and Potentates, haue forth no such effect as might haue turned to their comfort and consolation, and they in their consciences assuring themselues, that your Maiesty hath no reasonable occasion vpon euill will or displeasure, so to alienate and turne your selfe from your lamentable subiects: can not but vndoubtedly suspect, that through malyce and false information of some, who hauing more regard to their priuate lust and appetite, than to the seruice of your Maiesty, haue daily laboured to bring your Maiesties countreys into your displeasure. Wherin they haue alwayes most manifestly and vnfainedly pretended and trauailed, not onely by letting and defending that our humble supplications and faithfull

warnings should come to your Maiesties eares, misconstruing the same to the worst, and peruersly accusing them to your Maiesty, therby to bring the cuntrey into disscention and commotion, & so vnder your name to suppresse and make desolate the same, & so with the goods and blood of your subiectes to quench their grædy & vnsatiable apetite.

This is that (O most soueraigne Kinge) which your saide subiects do, and haue not without occasion esteemed to be the greatest calamitie that might happen vnto them, as considering that the way and meanes wher by they might complayne and shewe their griefes to your Maiestie, as to their bountifull and naturall Protector (so by God appointed as a refuge in their extremitie) is by the vngodly dealing of their ennemies taken away from them: a thinge which all wayes hath bëen permitted to vnreasonable creatures: namely to sufferr them in their extremitie and nëde to sue for remedy and redresse.

And therfore, although they had resolued and taken in hand with patience to attende the time of redresse, thinking that your Maiestie would at last haue opened your eares and eyes to heare and sæ their miserable estate, from which your Maiestie by reason of their saide euill willers is nowe letted.

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But now considering in the ende their suppression, the longer the more to encrease & to become more vnsufferable, tending not onely to their damage and destruction, but also of your Maiesties heritage and countreys, which in times past haue florished in all prosperitie, and now come to ruine: they could not for the faithfull obedience and aliance sake wherin they are bounde to your Maiesty and their native countrey, but now once againe by writing, request your Maiesty to consider and weigh the originall occasion of the desolation of your countries, & by whose meanes the same is come to passe, and consequently execute the office of a true King, in defending the righteous, and deliuering your countries from this tiranny & oppression.

And first we humbly beséech your Maiestie to call to mind and consider, that these your countries in times past hauing bene deuided amongst sundry Lords and rulers, are since by mariadges, agrëments, & mutuall treaties, in time, and orderly by lawfull succession and conueniences come vnder the house of *Burgondie*, and afterwards, by meanes of mariages contracted with the most famous house of *Austria*, and consequẽtly allied with the most mighty kingdome of *Spaine*: yet alwayes with expresse con-

condition, that euery and singular the countries and prouinces should possesse and enioye their owne policies rightes and liberties in times past accustomed, without that any prouince or countrie should be burdened of the dominion of the other, or by any meanes be depriued of their customes or liberties, but be bound ioyntly to liue one with another vnder one Prince and head, as many children vnder one father, to the intent with one accorde to defend their Prince & common weale against all straũgers and forraine force.

Also the Princes of the countrie willing as fathers to shew and declare their loue & affectiõ to euery one, did at their solemnisation and entring into their dominion & rule, by a solempne othe, bynd themselues to vse and kepe eche countrie in their rightes and franchises, without suffring that any of them should be enfringed or deminished, or that the one Prouince should haue dominiõ or rule ouer the other, much lesse be subiect vnto any forraine dominion or power: vpon which conditions he is accepted and taken as a supreme Lord and Gouernour ouer ỹ countries, and theruppon receaueth the othe of obedience and faithfulnesse of his subiectes.

Of which the premises nãdeth not any

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further or larger rehersall, whilest that vn doubtedly your Maiestie doth sufficiently remẽber, how that the Emperour *Charles*, of most noble memorie, following the presidentes of his predecessours, and ackuowledging that the sayd othe of solempnisation is the onely and right foundation, vppon which doth consist aswell the might, & authoritie of a Prince, as the faith and obedience of his subiects, did in his life time, and presence of your Maiestie, cause your Maiestie to receaue the sayd countries vnder ỹ sayd othe, and sware your Maiestie to the ioyfull income in all the landes and most of the townes, as next successour and onely heire of his emperiall Maiestie: and afterwardes the same Emperiall Maiestie departing out of these countries, and your Maiestie receauing the full dominion, and administration of the Land: did once again, in presence of the Deputis of the countries then assembled, rehearse and strongly confirme the saide priuileges. So that in all times past the sayd countries haue enioyed and bene ruled by their former priuileges & liberties.

Out of which hath followed such faithfulnesse and obedience of the subiects towards their Prince, and such vnitie and loue amongest ech other, that the countries by

God his prouidēce, haue flouriſhed with moſt happie proſperitie, the Princes then adorned with all honour and high dignities, and greatly redoubted and feared of their enemies.

And becauſe it nēedes not to rehearſe any thing out of the old hiſtories, being notwithſtanding erpleniſhed with many preſidēts, it hath appeared in all the warres of the Emperiall Maiſtie, what earneſt care hē had to the defence and mayntenaunce of his countries in reſt and quietnes.

Likewiſe your Maieſtie can well remember that he taking his leaue of theſe countries, did ſpecially and earneſtly recōmend the ſtate therof vnto your Maieſtie: Yea your Maieſtie being at his arriuall burdened with grēuous warres and extrēme charges, hath by experience found that all your ſubiectes both great and ſmall, euerie one to his ſtate and abilitie, haue bene readie to venture both life and goods in ſeruice of your Maieſtie. Wherin aſwel the Lords and nobles, as commons, haue ſo acquited and behaued themſelues, that your Maieſty hath vanquiſhed & ouercome your enemies, gotten great praiſe & renowne of al kings, and potentates, and made a fynall end of al warres and diſcentions, wherewith many

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yeares before your auncetors and coũtries were troubled.

Now if it might please your Maiestie, (which your lamentable and faithfull subiects do most humbly require) to enquire of and consider the originall occasions of the alterations of such good & quiet prosperitie, into such miserable commotions and extremities, wherwith the countries are now suppressed: your Maiestie shall find them to spring out of the malice and enuie which some (being about your Maiestie) do beare to the prosperitie and welfare wherewith God almightie hath blessed your countries and subiectes.

Which enuie and cancred malice, being further incensed and stuffed with vnsatiable auarice and vnmeasurable prodigalitie, hath brought them to such crueltie and tiranny, that they altogether forgetting all affection and seruice which they did owe vn to the countrie wherin they haue gotten great honour & benefites, haue (to the great preiudice of the seruice of your Maiestie and common wealth of these countries) procured by all meanes and practises this most haynous fyre of commotion, to thintent to aspire to the dignitie surpassing the states of the land, yea of your Maiestie.

And knowing well that to compasse that

deuise, it was a matter impossible, the customes and liberties of the countries remayning in force, which do altogether contrary their wicked pretence: considering besides, how diligent and faithful they of ỹ said countries were euery one in his vocation (according to their othe) to stand to the maintenance of the same: they attempted in peruerse maner too interprete too your Maiestie the doings and procædings of the Lordes, gouernours, and states of the land, tending to the maintenance of ỹ said rights, and liberties, in such sort as if they tended to disobedience or rebellion towardes your Maiestie.

Amongest which, specially some being spirituall persons, haue by all meanes attempted and sought, vnder pretence and shadowe of religion to confederate with other forraine prelates, and so by secret attempts and practises, to bring the countrie in hatred of your Maiestie, to thintent that they with their confederates which are by oth allyed not with your Maiestie, but with straunge rulers and countries in *Italie* & els where, specially with the *Pope* of *Roome*, might here beare rule and gouernaunce, &c. and as possibilitie and commoditie serued, to enlarge and confirme the same.

For when they first perceiued that in all

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the countries here abouts, yea ouer all Christendome, their rude and manifest abuses, and errours, by reason of the negligẽce and auarice of the priestes were discried, & specially when it began to greeue the chiefe & notablest persõs, ẏ they which ought onely to meddle with instructing of the people, in the faith and feare of God, and to execute his seruice with all fidelitie, according to ẏ example of the Prophetes and Apostels, did in steade therof, not onely contrarie to God his commaundement, but also to the decrees of the former Popes, and to all ordinances of the old counsels, yea against all statutes and vsages of Princes and countries, take vppon them to deale in worldly and Ciuill pollicies: yea also in matters toutching warfare and rule of countries, seeking to suppresse all degrees, and to reserue ẏ generall gouernement to themselues, taking in hand to bring all estates in disdaine and hatred of the Princes, aswell the subiects of your Maiestie, as of diuers other kinges, & Potentates, accusing them slaunderously with sedition and rebellion: whereby they haue stirred and prouoked, in all countries, troubles, and discention, warres and bloudshed, setting ẏ subiects at discord with their rulers, and the rulers against the subiects, & generally turned all things vpside down,

and brought in execrable confusion and errour, not estæming who was endamaged, so as they might atchiue the accomplishmēt of their rule and dominion, and bring all thinges vnder their rule and authoritie.

And to that intent, haue they sought, to plant in this countrie the inquisition, deuised and inuented in *Spaine* by certaine *Iewes, and Renegados*, by that meanes to breake all priuileges, rightes, and auncient customes, and to make frustrate all sworen contracts, vsages, and counselles, and so to get a full power and dominion ouer all your Maiesties faithfull seruants, which stand to the oth which they haue made to your Maiestie, not acknowledging any forraine Lords, spirituall or temporall, which might sæke by false accusations to impute vnto your subiectes, heresie and rebellion, to the intent therby to attayne to their purpose.

For better accomplishing wherof haue they by force urged and brought in the new Bishops, contrary to all landrights, and swornе priuileges, to the emparing of your Maiesties authoritie: chusing them not for vertue, prudence, or learning (being most of them, of the most rude and vnlearnest sort) but onely for that they take them as faithfull and true assistents, in the executing of their tiranny and crueltie.

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Their sayd vngodly enterprises and consequences of the same being the longer the more espied, haue the most notablest Lords, Gouernours, and Gentlemen, with the townes and countrie, giuen intelligence & knowledge to your Maiestie by continuall supplications, remonstrances and other possible meanes, how much the authorite of your Maiestie should be empared, shortned and deminished, by the said Inquisitors and Bishoppes, being most of them straungers and outlanders, by othe bound vnto forraine Princes, and (as they pretend) exempt of your iurisdiction, and by the same haue alleaged the euident impossibilite to bring in such innocations, and newelties, but that it would tend to the vtter ruine & destruction of the whole countrie: seing that it was most apparant that the bringing in therof was but a borowed cloake to shadow their doings, in abusing of your Maiestie, & suppressing of such as would controle their wicked and most notorious procedings and abuses, which they themselues can scarce conceale. Of which the number in these cõtries is so great and manifold, and dayly doth more encrease: that if your Maiestie would haue ben ruled by their persuasiõs & counsell in executing of rigour and extremities, they would haue made your Maiestie

a kyng without subiects, and your subiects without rulers, as is most notorious by the innumerable number of those, which in these countries haue vnder pretence of religion bene executed and murthered aswell wt fyre, & water, as with ye sword: besides an infinite multitude which are fled out of the countrie bearing with them all occupatiõs & notable sciences to ỹ instructing of others, & vnspeakeable preiudice of your Maiestie and countries.

Whereupon your Maiestie was in the end occasioned to a myld moderation of the placardes, by the same declaring that your meaning was not to bring in the Inquisition: which likewise was by the Duchesse of *Parma*, and the Lords and Gouernours of the countrie in the behalf of your Maiestie, solemply promised to all the Townes and subiects, and accordingly published by open proclamations, by commaundement of the Maiestrates. But shortly after, al that was ouerturned by meanes of the aforesaid persons, who in dæd seeme to haue firmely persuaded your Maiestie, that suche was to the deminishing of your Maiesties reputation and dignitie, vniustly alleadging, that your subiects would withdraw themselues from the duetifull obedience of your Maiestie. So that it is euident that your Maiestie vpon

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their informations, was moued to send the Duke of *Alba* out of *Spaine* into these Countries, to the intent with armes and force to compell your Maiesties subiectes, to that which they of themselues haue with all humilitie and obedience at all times offred.

And notwithstanding that the aforesayd Lordes and Townes of these countries had good occasion to thinke that they should bee greatly wronged through force of forayne souldiours, and rule of a straunge Gouernour, not being of their Countrie, nor of your Maiesties kinred or descent, but such a one as did beare towards them a most cancred hatred, had meanes sufficiēt to preuent his comming into the countrie: yet because hee came in the name of your Maiestie, and to make euident that they had not rebelled or declined from the obedience of your Maiestie, trusting to their conscience and right, haue willingly and honorably receiued him with all such as it pleased your Maiestie to sende with him, opening to him the gates of the Townes, deliuered into his hands the fortresses and strong holdes, and entertayned garrisons, onely for ỹ hee declared, that such was the will and pleasure of your Maiestie to be thereby assured of the fidelitie & obedience of your subiectes, which were accused to your Maiestie as rebels and trayt-

tours. Therfore, reason would haue required, that the aforesaid Duke of *Alba* should by all meanes and diligence haue informed your Maiestie of such your subiects true obedience and inclination: and before hée had proceéded to the execution of rigour, taken good and full information of their cõplaints, and chiefly touching the bringing in of these new Bishops and Inquisitors, contrarying God and all rightes, and that vpon good and true report thereof made to your Maiestie, redresse and remedie might haue ben had. But now cleane contrarie wyse, so soone as hée was receyued and was in possession of the force and rule of the Coũtrie, hath without kéeping of any order of Justice, or hauing regard to the landrightes and priuileges whereunto your Maiestie is sworne: not onely put to death and chased away the most part of the Lordes and Gouernours of these countreis, by your Maiestie elected & placed, but also generally declared all the priuileges and libertics to be forfaited, and the Countrie to be vsed as a country newly conquested by force of armes, to the vse of him and his associates, and so consequently freely to deale with the lyues and goods of your subiectes, as their lustes and appetites shall require.

And if possibly might be layd before your

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Maiesties eyes the excessiue force and not heard of cruelties which here haue ben vsed since the beginning of his gouernement, by spoyling, robbing, chasing away, and desolating: by apprehending, taking, banishmēt, and confiscating of goods, yea by burning, hanging, heading, hacking, racking, & most horrible and not before heard of tormentes and murtherings of the Subiects of your Maiestie, aswell Noble as innoble, poore as riche, yong as olde, widowes and orphanes, men, women, and yong maidens, of what state, qualitie, or cōdition soeuer they were: we doubt not but that your Maiestie would be amased to heare the rehearsall thereof: yea and would be grēeued at the same, that vnder your name such vnnaturall cruelties and tyranny should be vsed, as neither *Phalaris*, *Nero*, *Pharao*, *Herode*, or any other Heathen Tyrant could haue inuented the lyke, as now is vsed towards your faythfull subiects, which with their liues and goods haue allwayes laboured to kēepe the Crowne on your Maiesties head, agaynst all your enemies.

And that your Maiestie would also haue taken remorse of so many innocent infants chased awaye out of their natiue Countrie into straung lands: so many poore widowes and orphanes, and also vpon the lamētable

crye of the whole Countrie which now are suppressed by this most horrible tyrant.

For there is none which could defend or preserue his goods from their auarice, their wyues or daughters frō their filthy lustes, or their lyues from their bloudthirstinisse. Nobilitie, Richesse, manhood, or good seruice done in tymes past, could nothing preuaile, if once hee was entred into hatred of them. And without taking regard to the Iurisdictions or ordinary courses of the countrie, hath stopped the Iurisdictions of al Iustices, either in ciuill or criminall causes which in any wyse concerne the confiscations pronounced in his bloudy Counsell, in such sorte as neyther spirituall or temporal persones, widowes or orphanes, hospitalls, Spittels, Lazarus houses, or other whiche had good and deuable reuenues, amongst ỹ confiscated goods, could get any payment or satisfaction. But the Duke of *Alba* hath gotten all into his hands without any mind to discharge any the premisses, notwithstāding the diuers and earnest solicitations & requestes to him made in that behalfe by the States of the Countries, delaying the poore agræued subiectes with dilatorie and vnfounded apostillations, the one alwayes contrarying the other, and without sending ouer the matters to the prouinciall Counsells

ſels or ordinary Juſtices, to the intent to make them diſpaire of any ſatiſſactiõ to be made by the court, where by proces they haue ben sõmoned to their exciſſiue charge, and vpon ſummes of ſmall value haue bene forced to greater charges then the principal hath amounted vnto, not ſuffering any lawfull tranſport to be made of any one debte for the other. To conſider what number of honeſt women and yonge maydens they haue with force and violence rauiſhed & that the one after the other: yea miſuſed ſome euen to the death. Howe often haue they compelled the huſbande to remaine w̃ the wife, and the father with the daughter, to force thẽ with their eyes to beholde their moſt vilanous filthineſſe, and made them as inſtruments to the accompliſhinge of their luxurious luſte, vſing ſuch vnnaturall and beaſtly faſhions, that wæ are in a manner abaſhed and aſtonied to declare the ſame to your Maieſtie. Howe often hath it happened, that the huſband ſæking to defend hys wyfe or daughter of their rauiſhement, that they haue all togither as furious curres, run out of the houſe togither crying *Spania, Spania*, murtheringe a number of the pœre commons. How many women great with childe haue they ript vp the bellies off, and murthered the frute in their wombes.

Haue they not fleyed and pulled off ye skinne of some men being aliue and headdid their drommes with the same skin? others haue they not tosted with small fyres, nypped thē with red burning tonges euen to the death, and consequently murthered a number and made them dye a hundreth deathes? Howe many women haue they chased from their husbands, and children from their parents: yea what is there vnder the heauens so honest or holy which they haue not defiled and troden vnder foote? Verily amongest all other Nations, yea amongest the cruelest, ye buryinge of the dead, hath alwayes bene permitted and reuerenced.

But this Tirant in the despyte of God and nature, is so obstinate and peruerse, that hée hath caused to be taken out of the graue the carcasses of the dead, and conueyed vnder ye gallowes, vnder pretence because some of them dying without shrifte, & others without houseling had forfaited his goods which hée tooke as confiscated. What is there amongst men more holy and honest, then is the state of Matrimonie being the only and true foundation of all mutual loue & friendship, the originall of loue, the bond of peace, and the direct way of all dealings amongst men: whereof this Tyrant maketh so little accompte, that hée seuereth the mē frō their

wyues,

wyues, and the wyues frō their hus bands, being ioyned togither in the congregation before God and his Angels, cleane contrary to the commaundement and institution of almighty God and rightes, & all vnder pretence that they were ioyned togither in the way of heresie: but to saye trueth, it is onely in spoyling manner, to match the beautifull and riche Matrones with his Souldiours & ruffians, and finally by his crueltie burst in sunder the original bande tending to the intertayning of all mutuall loue: murthering and killing the women which in time of extremitie had relæued their hus bands, & the childrē for succouring the necessitie of their parents, yea those which had onely with a letter cōforted any of them. And to the ende that nothing shuld by him be left vndefiled, hath hée troden in most despitefull manner vnder foote the most holy Sacramēt of Baptisme, whereby wée are incorporated in the body of Jesus Christ and cōmunion of God his Church, willing and commaunding that those children which were Christened openly and lawfully according to the institution of Jesus Christ, in the name of the Father, Sonne, and holy Ghoste, should once agayn be baptised, vnder pretence that they were Christened as heretiques, and repugnant contrarie to all godly and naturall rightes,

ordonances of the church, & decrées of Counsells.

Furthermore it néedeth not to rehearse to your Maiestie, the gréeuous exactions inuented by him, one after an other, and without measure doth vrge of the poore commõs, as the hundrethes, twenties, yea the tenth penie, of all goods, mouables and immouables, of all goods bought and sold, demaunding, yea & vraging by execution contrarie to ỳ aduise & counsell of al estates in these coũtries, not of the cleare gaines of ỳ same, but the tenth, and twentie penie of the capitall some of all sales. Whereby not onely all trades and traffiques, are abandoned out of the land, but likewise the subiectes of the same, depriued from the getting of the liuing, of them, their wiues, and children. And notwithstanding that the states, haue at sundry times done their endeuour largely to informe the said Duke of the inconueniences which might follow vppon the said demaund: and requested that he would in their behalfe aduertise your Maiestie therof: would not hearken to them, but shaked them of without any comefort: although he was by intercession of the counsel & states of the land therunto most earnestly instanced, and so therby caused the decay of all marchandise, compelled the inhabitants

through

through misery to flée away into other countries. And yet it is apparant, that when any necessitie is towardes for payment of the souldiers, no money is to be had, in such sorte that the Spanish souldiours are at afterdele in their payment xxviij. monethes, and the Dutche moste of them constrayned to go a begging from doore to doore: of which some haue by famine and misery perished. Notwithstanding the great sommes which the states haue leuied and paid to the paying of the said souldiours, & yet neuertheless haue his garnisons consumed, and eaten out the most part of the townes, & suppressed the same with the *Seruitio*, which they haue bene forced to minister to the said Spanish souldiours, and those which haue giuen most money, as well to him, as to *Don Frederico*, or any of theirs, haue bene the first that were discharged of the sayde bondage of *Seruitio*. With which garnisons he hath most vexed ỹ townes situated within the hart of the countrie: leauing the borders and other places of importance without any garison, whereby in some places, thinges are come to alteration: besides that by reason of lacke of paye, his Spanish souldiruns are fallen into a most licentious and vnspeakable order of life, threatning, beating, robbing, spoyling, and by all maner of

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cruell exactions vsing your subiects: wher-
by is manifest, that vnder pretence of your
Maiesties name and religion, he setteth no-
thing but to fill his grædie and bloudthirstie
appetite, being to the contrarie most noto-
rious that he hath so little regard to the ser
uice of our Maiestie, as to the maintenance
of the common weale of the low countries,
which he suffreth vtterly to perish and gos
to ruine.

But what nædeth it with wordes to ex-
presse this, as if he had not sufficiently ma-
nifested whereunto his procedings haue
tended, shewing it being blinded with his
most vnsatiable presumptiousnes & desire
of vaine glory: as in a token of a *Tropheum*
or signe of victory in his notorious proce-
dings, as before rehearsed, hath caused to be
erected within the castell of *Andwarpe*, a bra
son Image standing vpon the nobilitie and
states of the countrie. We leaue now vn-
rehearsed what his meaning was thereby,
but when, or where, hath it bene sæne
that any Tirant in his life time hath caused
any such Image to be erected. We find that
the *Romaine Emperours* and Kynges, which
in a maner had brought the whole world vn
der their subiection, haue sometimes caused
to be erected Images of brasse, and stone:
as at this present the Popes of *Roome* who

pretend

pretend to be God his vicar, yet it is done by ordinaunce and consent of the counsell, & commons, or at the least by their aduise and sufferance: but that they in their life time haue done such, is not to be foũd by any exãples or Cronicles, considering it to be a manifest token of madde arrogantie and insupportable pride: we find onely that *Nabuchodonozar* who caused him self to be honoured as a God, set vp the like Image, commaunding all men to knæle and bowe vnto the same: yet durst he not do it but by consent of the chiefe and nobles of his countrie.

But this Tirant doth aswell in his presumpteous arrogantie as in execrable tiranie surpasse al other tirants: who as though he would not onely aduaunce himselfe to the rome of the kyng, but likewise in God his place: hath without the aduise, counsell, or ordinance of any, in his life time erected this proud Image, to the defacing and emparing of your Maiesties dignitie, shewing therby his force and tyranny wherwith hæ hath subdued and brought vnder fœte these countries.

And in like maner he hath not bene afraid following the example of the tirant *Herode:* to place himselfe vpon the market place of *Andwarpe* in your Maiesties stœle & cloth of estate: which neuer had ben touched by a-

ny Liuetenant before, sitting there repre-
senting the absence of your Maiestie, as an
Idoll, and vnder pretence of publishing of
a pardon: which neuer Quéene, Duke, or
any Gouernours or Gouernaunts of these
countries haue done the like: tending to the
manifest disestimation and abasing of your
Maiesties honour and dignitie.

These procédings, most soueraigne king
are become so apparant and euident vnto al
the world, that all straunge nations, and
Potentates, haue a terrour and execration
therat, insomuch as euen the Duke of *Alba*
his souldiours, and seruants, do protest and
say, that they can not estéeme such for good,
much lesse that the seruice of your Maiestie,
and welfare of the countrie, should therin
consist.

Besides that we can not thinke that your
Maiestie being therof sufficiently and truely
infourmed, would permit such forces and
violences, for it was neuer heard that any
King or Potentate, hath so vnmercifully
dealt with his subiects: your Maiesties aun
cetours of most famous memorie, haue in
most milde and gentle maner behaued thē-
selues towardes their subiectes, that they
haue therof giuen a most laudable example
not onely to their successours, but also to o-
ther Christian Princes, Dukes, & rulers,

that

that whensoeuer any discention was risen betweene the subiects and Magestrates, by reason of misgouernement, & taken armes in hand: and being againe brought vnder obedience by their Lordes and rulers, were neuer molested with these examples of crueltie, but by expresse capitulation frō word, to word, confirmed all their priuileges and liberties, and the same to enioye their full effect.

So as wée shoulde greatly wrong your Maiestie, if wé should persuade our selues that your Maiestie were so farre diuerted from the example of your predecessours, & from the duetie of all other Christian Princes and Potentates, that in steade of ministring right and Iustice to your obedient subiects, and giuing audience to their most pitifull complaints, shuld send such a tirant in such sort cruelly to murther thē, destroying the countrie, and burthening your subiects with most intollerable slauery, seruitude, and thraldome.

And now the sayd Duke presenting vnto vs his fained pardons, vnder the name of your Maiestie for our rebellions and misdemeanours (as he termeth them) we coulde not accept the same without depriuing of your Maiesties dignitie.

Knowing well that your Maiestie will

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not, before having heard the iustnesse of our cause condemne vs of rebellion. Where is there any that iustly hath informed your Maiestie of our dealings, or when did euer your Maiestie giue eare vnto any, but such as were our manifest enemies: Reason requireth both partes to be heard, before sentence should be pronounced. And therfore in the Cronicles of *Alexander* the great, is much cõmended: who whensoeuer he heard any parties, leaned with his head vpon his shoulders with one of his eares closed, and being asked why he so did, aunswered that the later partie ought aswell haue audience as the first, which order hath alwayes bene had in estimation of all nations, as being conformable to all naturall rightes. So as no offendour, what grieuous crimes soeuer he had committed shalbe iudged or condemned, but that he shall first aunswere vnto such accusations as are alleged against him.

Now most mercifull & soueraigne Lord and King, we doe most hũbly prostrate our selues vnder the fot of your Maiestie, most hartely requesting the same, that it woulde please your Grace to bend towards vs one eare, and (as in a ballance) equally to weye our estates. Your Maiestie hath by postes, letters, and other meanes ben informed of

this

this p̄ſent eſtate, and our mouthes haue ben cloſed vp, our tongues pearſed with red burning Irons, and our lippes ſeared vp with burning tonges, becauſe we ſhuld not giue our neceſſitie to vnderſtād. The waies haue as yet ben taken from vs, ſo that our lamentable crys could neuer come vnto, or pearſe the eares of your Maieſtie.

How then can your Maieſtie condempne vs of rebellion (which always we haue had in hatred) becauſe that the Duke of *Alba* doth ſēke to bring vs vnder his ſubiection with his letters of pardon, and wē nothing eſtēming of the ſame: which he perceyuing and that with force hē cannot (by God hys p̄uidence) p̄euayle, we cannot therfore accept his ſaid letters as being directed to vs who neuer ſtrayed from your obedience, except it were that we would take & acknowledge the Duke of *Alba* for our King: for him onely haue we reſiſted & not your Maieſtie, whom we with life and goods (ſo long as it ſhall pleaſe God to permit vs ȳ ſame) will faithfully ſerue and obeye. And therefore his pardō doth nothing touch vs, which tendeth onely to the Townes which haue ben ſeduced from the Kings obedience. But we marke his intent, knowing that eyther hē would be king himſelfe, or elſe that wē by entiſemēt of his ſubtile pardons ſhoulde

condempne our selues. For wee receyuing pardon, must acknowledge our selues gilty of commotions and rebellion agaynst oure King, of tumult and sedition, yea of heresie and declyning from the Christian faith, and in fyne, to the depriuinge of the honour of God and the Kings maiestie. This is hys sæking, that by receyuing of his false & fayned pardõs, we shuld by our subsignations & seales confirme the same, to the intent that hæ hereafter might thereby defende and excuse himselfe of tyranny before your Maiestie and all other christian Princes and Potentates, saying, that if we had not founde ourselues culpable in these græuous offences for which we were punished and tormẽted, we would neuer haue receyued any remisse or pardon.

Wherein wæ take God, the searcher and knower of all hartes, and your Maiestie to witnesse, that if wæ haue committed any such offences, as by the sayd pardon are layd to our charge, that wee doe altogither refuse all pardon, but desire as the moste wickedst and vylest creatures on earth, to make satisfaction for our offences with our bloud, and doe not refuse, O most mercifull King, one after an other, to suffer most extreame torments, if it may be found that wæ haue offended in such order as is presumed.

And

And do requeſt the Duke of *Alba*, (if any petition will take place with him) that all ſuch as come to him for pardon, acknowledging the pretended offence, that hee without ſhewing of mercy, doe entreat them in ſuch ſorte as their offences (according to righte) haue deſerued, commending him therein in geuing or mayntayning any fayth or credit with him as one ſo vnfaithfull to God & his King, as hath not ben abaſhed ſo greatly to abuſe and contempne their Maieſties.

But what is it, it ſhall not be found that euer we haue thoght any ſuch matter, much leſſe in effect ſhewed the ſame. We haue alwayes bene faithfull and ſeruiſeable to our King, and ſought to ſerue God, the father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt in ſpirit and truth, according to his word and commaundment, ſo farre as our fæble nature would permit, euen to the laſt droppe of our bloud.

But conſidering that the Duke of *Alba* in ſtead of executing equitie and Juſtice, and hearing of their complaintes and grefes, & perſecutinge of your maieſties promiſes, hath contrary to all right and reaſon, & our rightes and priuileges, ſuppreſſed vs wyth moſt cruell tyrannie, deſtroyed oure Countries, and vſed vs more ſeuerely, then euer *Jewes* or *Turkes* haue done againſt their vanquiſhed enemies. And in the meane ſpace,

hath hée accused vs to your Maiestie, and al other christian Potentates with false accusations of rebellion and heresie: and we neuer could come to our aunswer, or receyue any comfort in the vniuersall world. So as by necessitie we haue ben forced to take the armes in hande, and by all meanes possible sought to defende our poore native Country from such execrable tyrannie: and rather w one accord to spende our lyues, then to fall into the handes of such a Tyrant: wherein wée meane to persiste, except that it please your Maiestie with mercyfull cares to attende to our complaintes, and minister to vs Justice against such oppression and tyrãny. For God be thanked, we are not so il instructed in his word, but that we know very well, that aswell our lyfe as death consisteth in his handes, & that this death which no man can escape, is but as a ready path to the lyfe euerlasting.

Therefore, seeing our death maye bée a pleasure to other, wee chuse rather to dye an honorable death in the behalfe of the liberties and common weale of our Country, thẽ to fall into such seruitude, and become footestooles vnto most arrogant aliants, who alwayes haue hated vs. For at the least wée shall thereby leaue to our successors suche a good fame, as it may be sayd, that their Predeces-

deceſſours had rather with renowme to dye with honour, then lyue in all bondage and ſhame.

Wæ contende for the libertie of our conſciences, in defence of our wyues and childzen, our bloude and goods, that is to ſaye, whether the Duke of *Alba* with his complices ſhall according to his ſelfe will bee a Lord and Gouernour, or that wæ to the behoſe of your Maieſtie, O moſt Souerayne King, ſhall defende it from him. We know that the limites of our liues are ſet, and ſhal not by the pardon of the Duke of *Alba* ſurpaſſe the ſame. Therefore wæ onely deſire your Maieſtie, that it may pleaſe the ſame to weye and conſider our caſes, and not to ſuffer, that wæ by accepting ſuch pardones, ſhould for euer be reputed as rebels to God and our King, which we neuer thought.

For wæ are fully perſwaded, ỳ although wæ had receyued thoſe pardons, yet would it nothing haue preuayled for ſafegarde of our lyues, for thereby the Duke of *Alba* might haue had the better action againſt vs the proceæded with moſt ſeueritye, & might hadbetter haue anſwered for himſelfe, if we and confeſſed our ſelues guilty of rebellion, both againſt God & the King his Maieſtie. For then no mã would haue moued vs, although we had bene ſlayne and murthered

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as disturbers of the peace and common wealth and not worthy to lyue.

And although it were not so, yet it is apparant by all the Duke of *Alba* his proceedinges, that he meaneth to obserue no faith with vs, for seeing that he hath openly perpetrated the othe which the Duches of *Parma*, with all the Lordes and gouernours of the countrie, in the name of your Maiestie, had sworne so solemply to these townes: yet hath he in these latter warres, sufficiently expressed his peruerse meaning in diuers townes, as at *Mons* in *Henauld* hath he cõtrary to his othe, caused a number of Burgeses to be hanged, at *Naerdon* he hath executed his crueltie in such a sort as in a town of like bignes hath not ben hard of: and now at *Harlem* hath he or at ẏ leaſt in his name, *Don Frederico* assured the souldiours of their liues, & therunto certaine Lords as pledges they bound themselues: and yet hath he cuẽ to the young paiges, caused them to be murthered one with another, and their naked carcasses to the scandale of all women, and virgins, left lying vpon the scaffold a day & a night. And such as had consented to the deliuery of the towne, and were entred into his seruice, hath he caused to be caried to the Galies, and vpon the Fuycke before *Harlem* when he had promised the souldiours

their

their liues, ſuffred them to periſh with hunger, ſaying: that he had aſſured them of their liues, and not of meate and drinke. As alſo the Burgeſes of *Harlem*, whom he had aſſured their liues, hath he compelled to be Pyners before the towne of *Alkmar*, where they are by the inhabitants ſlayne: which doth paſſe all barbarous tiranny and crueltie, and is a moſt manifeſt token wherwith he ſeeketh to maintaine his vntrue proceedinges.

So that it is euident that he meaneth not to obſerue any othes or promiſes, but for a ſmall time: to the entent he might the better haue his will of others, and becauſe hee might the better hereafter defend his cauſe, againſt your Maieſtie, and other Princes, doth produce this pardon, for if we do accept the ſame we muſt needes acknowledge our ſelues giltie of ſuch offences, as he layeth to our charge. and is not bound to the obſeruing of any othe: for by the counſell holden at *Conſtance*, it was aboue iij. hunderd yeres enacted that no faith is to be kept with heretiques.

For wheras he doth in his pardon ſubtilly alleadge that ſuch offēces as haue bene committed, were done more vpon euill ſuggeſtin, and euill will, then of their owne nature and enclination. This is but a ſubtill

pollicie, wherwith he ment to diſceaue the ſimple, and bring them vnder his yoke: and to furniſh himſelfe of power to ſuppreſſe all ſuch as he thinketh good, and that without reproch of any, ſeeing that it ſtandeth in his iudgement who hath offended, the premiſſes or not.

But once conſider moſt ſoueraigne King, how that the righteous GOD hath deceaued this ſubtile dealer in his proceedings, for in this pardon wherin he pretendeth moſt grieuouſly to accuſe vs, he doth by expreſſe wordes confeſſe, that he can by no meanes thinke that we could not haue bene ſo altered or chaunged, but vppon euill ſuggeſtion or els we ſhuld haue continewed in al faith and willingneſſe, which we alwayes haue ſhewed to your Maieſtie.

For if it be ſo, that we before this laſt offence (as he termeth it) haue ſhewed to your Maieſtie all obedience as he himſelfe witneſſeth: Why hath he then vſed ſuch cruelltie and perſecution? Wherefore hath hee in ſuch ſorte diſtroyed the townes, burned the the villages, and places: murthered the inhabitants, and ſpoyled thē of all their goods, hath not he by his ſouldiours by fyre conſumed *Catwicke* vpon Zea, *Sandwicke and Alfen*, & that long before theſe tranſgreſſions, wherof he complayneth, were begone. Did

not

not they pretend to set fyre on the towne of *Vtrecht*, which was so well addicted vnto them, haue not they in *Rotterdam*, where as they were receaued as frends, cruelly murthered a number of Burgeses, was not foũd by *Pacheco* a bill of innumerable number, aswell of the nobilitie, as most substantiall commons in sundrie and diuers townes, which by commaundement of the Duke should haue bene murthered, if matters by Gods prouision had not altered. And wherunto tended the demaund of the tenth penie, to none other end but that we should at his handes buy our goods, which he pretended to be confiscated: whereby it appeareth that he and his adherents are sworne enemies vnto your Maiestie: whilest he doth in such sort execute his tiranny, murther, burning, and with such force and seruitude, doth agreeue vs your subiects, whom he himselfe doth alleage to haue bene most faithfull vnto your maiestie. So as through necessitie we haue ben compelled to enter into armes to resist his force and tiranny: which his seruants could not denie, who diuers times haue sayd that they would so long vexe and trouble this countrie and inhabitants therof, that in the end they should be forced to rebell, and so haue occasion to bring it vnder subiection, & spoyle the same of all their

substance,

substance: which is to be approued by some letters, wherby was written, that this it was for which they longed. It is very trew most soueraigne King, that the Duke doth heare alleage, as that your subiects would neuer had rebelled, but vpon suggestion of certaine euill disposed, which euill disposed are none other then the Duke himself, with his bloudy counsel, and sanguine adherents, which of meare set, euill will, and vnsatiable auarice, haue sucked the sweate & bloud of your subiects, & of long time so earnestly persecuted, and grieued to the vttermost, that they for defence of themselues, their wiues, children, and all that which in this world they do estæme of, haue bene forced to take armes in hand: Therfore where as he presumeth that he hath so louingly dealt with other townes, take example by *Tournay, Valencien, Lysle, Ypre, Maestricht, Deuenter*, and likewise by *Machlin, Oudenard, Dermonde, and Naerden*, where they haue by murthering, robbing, hanging, rauishing of women, and with diuers outrages persecuted the poore commons.

Besides this hath there bene murthered at *Bruxels* at sundry times aboue CC. and xxx. Burgeses, and that long before the beginning of these warres, as also in a commotion at *Gaunt*, which happened amongst

the

the Spaniards, where of the commons haue bene slaine L. or LL. besides an infinite number of men and women, which at sundrie times haue bene murthered, which we leaue to enlarge here seeing those their procedinges are accompted mercifull dealings besides other most wicked insolences vsed in the said townes.

And therefore hee needeth not to threaten vs, that if wee do not accept his pardon, that no rigour which may be deuised, shalbe left vnexercised towardes our persones, by desolation, honger and sword, in such sorte, as no remembrãce shalbe left of them present. For wee are certaine, that here about hee hath sought as much as is to him possible: and would vndoubtedly haue vsed further crueltie (whereof hee boasteth so much) if the feare which hee hath, that the Coũtries would not any longer abyde his crueltie, had not letted him.

Hee doth not so much esteeme the seruice of your Maiestie, nor regardeth your heritage & countries, as that hee would abstayn from ruining and destroying the same: yea vtterlye to rote out the reliques and memories thereof, so farre as it were to him possible, as the burning & desolating which hee before these warres, hath vsed, doe sufficiently beare witnesse. But wee trvste that

the almighty God will neuer suffer ẏ your Maiestie should permit your Countries altogither to fall into the force of suche a Tyrant and destroyer.

For, whereas hée here alleadgeth that we haue put on armes agaynst your Maiestie: that wée vtterly denie. For wée protest before your Maiestie, yea before God & hys Angells, that our meaning or pretẽce was neuer such. For wée wil aduẽture our selues and all that wée haue in this world, as likewyse we haue don towards your Maiesties predecessours, with lyfe and goods to stande to ẏ defẽce of your maiestie against al your enemies and ill willers.

But this wée will acknowledge before the vniuersall world, that (being thereunto extremely constrayned) wée haue taken armes in hand agaynst the tyranny and abuses of the Duke of *Alba* and his cõplices, to deliuer our lyues and goods, wyues and children from the bloudthirstie hands of his ministers: and if hée dow preuayle agaynste vs, rather chuse to dye an honorable death, and leaue a fame to our successours, then to yẽlde and bowe to such a tyrant, and suffer our countrie to liue vnder vnsupportable slaueric. So else we should be abashed and ashamed to shewe our faces in any other Countries, as hauing neglected the seruice

of

of your Maiestie. And therefore haue all the Townes ioinctly and seuerally taken in hande and sworne the one after the other, to abyde al sieges, if néed bée, to the vttermost, though to the losse of their lyues and goods: yea rather set fyre of our owne howses, thē to yéeld to the force of this Tyrant.

For wée are well assured, that at the hāds of such a Tyrant, as regardeth no othe, and hath so often and cruelly threatned vs, there is no more to be looked for, but that he wold rather colour the riuers and streames with our blood, and to behange the countrie with our bodyes, to satiate his bloudthirsty luste and appetite.

Therfore we prostrate our selues before the feete of your Maiestie, desiring the same for GOD his sake, who hath set ý Crowne vppon your head, and gyuen the Scepter into your hande once to bowe your eares to our reasonable complayntes. Wée doe not desire to be dissolued from the obediēce of your Maiestie, but onely that we may haue our consciences frée to Godwarde, to heare his holy worde, & to follow the same, to the intent to giue an accompt at the daye of Iudgement of our soules, & that we may atcheue such discharge for our miserable natiue Countrie, which alwayes hath donne such faythful seruice to your Maiestie, from

the yoke and bondage of forayne Nations and *Spanish* Souldioures, and to suffer the Countrie to enioye those liberties, priuileges and customes, as your Maiestie, and the most puissant Emperour (*Charles*, your Maiesties most noble father (of famous memorie) haue to youre Subiectes solemply swoorne.

Then will wee at the commaundement of your Maiestie lay downe our weapons & armes, and will venture body, goods, and all that wee haue in the world, in the seruice of your maiestie by water or by land, where & whensoeuer your Maiestie shall commaund the same: and your Maiestie shall finde that wee are not altered or abastarded from you, but rather that wee doe excell in faythefull seruice, all our predecessours, which hereby wee do promise and sweare to your maistie, beseeching euē as wee do faithfully meane it, so to take mercie of our soules.

Desiring that this our declaration and othe be openly published and declared to all Kings, Potentates, Lordes and Nations, to the intent they may knowe that we are no Rebelles towards our King, for wee neuer learned such of our predecessours: But that wee of mere force and necessitie haue bene constrayned to take on armes agaynst the enemies & vsurpers of his maiesties name.

Requesting therfore all christen Princes and Potentates, ý they wilbe moued with a pytyfull compassion of our miseries, (and much doubting that this our supplication & declaration shalbe kept back and suppressed as other our former Requestes haue bene, & not come to our Kings handes:) that they will thereof informe his Maiestie, to the intent our iust cause maye come to light, and that his Maiestie may be acquited of the innocent bloud which this *Albanish* Tyrant doth shedde. This wee hartely desire, and wee all will pray vnto almighty GOD, for their prosperitie to remain for euer.

FINIS.

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